

Saturday Gazette.

Bloomfield-and Montclair, N. J.
W. F. LYON, Editor and Proprietor.
CHAR. M. DAVIS, Associate Editor.

OUR PUBLICATION OFFICE is next door to the POST OFFICE in Bloomfield.

WHAT IS THE PROPER WORK OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS?

No sooner is one question about our Public Schools answered, than another arises, demanding no less thought and discussion for its settlement. Public sentiment has decided that the State shall offer to all its children a free common school education. To what extent this shall be compulsory, is not yet settled; but while we are still considering it, circumstances compel us to decide what shall be the limit of the instruction given in our public schools.

The present school system in this State was established in 1867; in 1871 it was made free. By the original act the State appropriated \$100,000 yearly to this object; the balance necessary for the support of the schools, was raised partly by the townships and partly by the districts. Each district was required also to erect and furnish suitable buildings; this has been generally done, so that there is scarcely a district—at least in Essex County—which does not possess suitable accommodations for all the children who attend the schools. The Act of 1871, in addition to the \$100,000 appropriation, laid a tax of two mills per dollar on the property in the State; this money is apportioned to the districts according to the number of children between the ages of five and eighteen years residing within their respective limits. The Township tax (very unfortunately, we think) has been abolished; whatever deficiency exists must be supplied by district taxation.

The State appropriation and the two-mill tax—amounting this year to \$1,325,592.21—are considered sufficient to educate the children in the so-called fundamental branches, viz., spelling, reading, writing, geography, arithmetic, and grammar. Many citizens find it so hard to pay their taxes, that they are enquiring whether public school instruction should not be limited to these fundamental branches, and higher education be entrusted to private effort and expense. Others, although not influenced by the tax, still believe this the true limit. Before discussing this question, it is necessary to decide, what thorough instruction in the above-named studies comprises.

The ability to spell most of the words in the spelling book, without regard to their meaning and use, is no longer considered a knowledge of spelling. T is a part—an important and necessary part—of the subject; but not all of it. The scholar must be instructed as to the meaning and proper use of words; which can be done only by practical composition. Grammar must be taught in the same way. The spelling and grammar of a language are of use only as they enable one to read, write, and speak it easily and correctly. This includes a great deal. It pre-supposes knowledge and thought. A teacher, then, even in primary classes, much more in the advanced ones, must impart much general knowledge, and teach the children how to think, as well as how to express thought.

This work, instead of being committed to tyros, should be done by our most intelligent and cultured teachers.

The children should obtain such a knowledge of Arithmetic as will enable them to perform quickly and accurately any of the calculations necessary in ordinary business transactions; including interest and the measurement of lengths, solids and liquids.

In connection with arithmetic should be imparted a knowledge of book keeping sufficient to enable the scholar to keep an accurate account of ordinary business transactions. Geography should be so studied that the pupil on leaving school will have a fair idea of the shape and motions of the earth; its divisions of land and water; its mountain and river systems; its climates; the productions of its various countries; the nations who dwell in it; their peculiarities and something of their history; and also something of the world's commerce. With such knowledge, a man can read his daily paper, or magazine, intelligently, and can converse understandingly.

A good deal of work is thus laid out for the primary and grammar school; with such an education, a boy possessing common sense and energy will (other things being equal) be successful in life. We are now ready to consider the subject of Higher Education.

C. M. D.

THE SANITARIAN MAGAZINE FOR AUGUST, has reached our table late, but is always welcome. Among all the health magazines it has no rival in the line. It combines philosophy, science and common sense in an eminent degree and in an attractive and assuring manner. Its statements are the results of practical experience and intelligent investigation; its decisions accord with true philosophy and sound judgment. In the editorial table, which occupies seventeen pages, Dr. Bell discourses succinctly on various interesting and important topics. Contents include: Slaughtering in Cities; Counter Irritants; Mental Culture; Residence news; Business; Morbid Impulses; (very valuable); Alcohol's Achievements; Typhoid Fever; The Child's Victory; and the well-furnished and attractive Editor's Table. DR. BELL 284 Broadway, N. Y.

Our Irvington friends will be interested to know that our next week's issue will contain a complete reprint of their new charter as passed by the last legislature.

EDITORIAL NOTE.—We have been obliged to defer an interesting communication from our valued Correspondent, "H. C.—" and another from the *—a-side*, by "G. E. B." both welcome; will appear next week, we doubt not.

Our Belleville Correspondent is informed that his communications are three weeks over due. Among the many intelligent and interested friends there, cannot we get something for our columns which will be of value to Bellevilleans?

Our Caldwell Correspondent is now at present. We desire another. Perhaps Verona will take Caldwell under its wing.

Our "Summer Correspondence" from Lake George, is by a gentleman of Montclair now recuperating at that pleasant watering place.

NEW ROUTE TO NEWARK.—We invite attention to advertisement in another column of a Stage Line to be run between Montclair, Bloomfield and Newark on the Bloomfield Ave., by Mr. TICHENOR.

HOME MATTERS**BLOOMFIELD.****PUBLIC MEETING.**

An abortive attempt was made to get up a public meeting on Saturday night last. A printed call niggled by a half dozen citizens, excited but little interest and attracted very few persons. Our informant stated that "a preliminary organization was had, with Brother Wester for chairman and Joseph Oakes for secretary; then the meeting adjourned to Tuesday evening."

Another printed call, on the authority of the same names as before, was put up at the depot, the post office, and probably at some other places, for an adjourned meeting to be held in Friends' Hall, on Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock. Soon after that hour there were a few persons in the hall. Some of us were told by one who seemed interested, that the meeting was to be held in a one horse wagon standing under the gas lamp at Wilde's corner. We saw the gas lamp and the wagon but at 10 minutes past eight, observing no assembly, we stepped over to the post office where we tarried a little; and at precisely 20 minutes past eight we turned to go to the meeting, when we were met at the door by the secretary of the hasty organization, who informed us that the meeting had been held, and had acted upon the question submitted to them, voting unanimously to rescind the vote of the regular town election last Spring, which appropriated \$3,000 for road purposes.

The absurdity of this action, and the fallacy of supposing that any "Mass Meeting" of ten, twenty, or even five hundred persons, unofficially called, by a self-constituted committee, can legally undo in five minutes what the citizens of the whole town by regular ballot, deliberately occupying a whole day and night, had decided should be done, are too plain to need to be set forth as an argument.

If our worthy Assessor fails to put the appropriation referred to in the tax list, on the assumption that the unknown *etc.* vote in and about the one horse wagon last Tuesday evening, authorized it, we very much doubt whether judge, jury, or fellow citizens generally will justify his conclusion.

TOWN COUNCIL—BLOOMFIELD.—Regular Meeting, Friday afternoon, 7th inst.

The momentous business of the session was the consideration of proposals for lighting the town for one year from first of October next. Ignoring the fact that we have a Gas Company here, which has made large investments and expenditures in setting up the business in our town, laying down seven or eight miles of pipe as directed by the Town Council, with a tacit understanding that on reasonable terms that company should continue to serve the streets with light, and losing sight, apparently, of the large expenditure already incurred by the town in the lamps and the connecting pipes, &c., the Committee opened the bids, one of which proposed to light the streets with petroleum, for a certain price which we have not been particular to remember, and another to light with a new illuminator, patented as "gasoline."

The Committee wisely concluded to defer action for the present.

VACATIONS.—Quite a number of our townsfolk have taken a summer trip. A number have been to Saratoga, others to Catskill, others to Lake George, others to Trenton Falls, others to the sea side. We have been represented at Long Branch, Ocean Grove, and especially at that charming sea-side resort, Point Pleasant, ten or twelve miles below Long Branch, Rev. Mr. Knox and family, Mr. Robert Peele and family, and many other Bloomfielders are there, or have been, this season.

We know of one party that have found Cold Spring, L. I., a delightful place and another party from here that went to Portland, St. John's and Halifax, with great satisfaction. We are happy to learn that Mrs. Anzil Dodd and daughter had a pleasant passage out, and arrived in safety at their destination, Lexington, England.

ED. GAZETTE.—DEAR SIR.—As rowdism is rapidly on the increase in our village, and the constant fear of our houses being broken into and plundered at night occasions much discomfort. I should think it well that you should urge the immediate necessity of the Town Committee taking some action which will afford security to our citizens; say by appointing two or three men whose duty it shall be to patrol at night. I believe there is an organ-

ized protective association—Why don't they do something? or have they ceased to exist?

Please stir them up before it is too late and preserve the good name of our town.

MONTCLAIR.**LIST OF LETTERS**

REMAINING UNCLAIMED at the Post Office in Montclair, N. J., Aug. 6, 1874.

Anderson, Joseph. MacKey, Sarah D.
Brown, Sella. McCarthy, Edward.
Birdseye, C. E. Maen, Shouaker.
Crowley, Mary. Mun, Mrs. Josey.
Dunn, Mrs. J. B. Ravenhill, Mrs. Josey.
Egan, Mrs. Alex. C. Roberts, Seth T.
Enright, Andrew. Ross, Wm. C.
Gambell, Fordson. Stiles, C. C.
Kua, Mrs. Margaret. Stiles, John (3).
Kinn, Mrs. Anna M. (2).
Kinn, Mrs. Susan. Styles, Dr. Anna.
Lyon, Mrs. David. Styles, Dr. Anna.
Myles, Mrs. Mary Rita. Stanlow, W. N.
McLellan, D. Wheeler, Miss Florie.
Any person calling for the above letters will please say "Advertisement."

JOHN C. DOREMUS, P. M.

EXAMINATION.

The Essex County Board of Examiners will meet at the Public School Building in Montclair, on Saturday the 29th instant, for the examination of candidates for teachers' certificates. Candidates should be present as early as 9 A. M.

CHAS. M. DAVIS, COUNTY SUPT.

MONTCLAIR INDUSTRIES.—Montclair does not boast of her manufactures. This town is eminently a place of residences. It is the pride of its citizens to have it so. No other village within one hour's distance of New York, the vaunting inhabitants claim, can compare with this in the beautiful combination of all the attractions and excellencies which render the beau ideal of delightful homes. Of its superior charms we shall have occasion to speak at another time. Our object now is to make known some of its quiet, unobtrusive, but creditable industries. We speak to day only of the establishment of Domsay & Payne, Ecclesiastical Glass Stainers and Church Decorators. Their modest shop and studio will not attract the attention of the passer-by, though it is easily found on Bloomfield Avenue, a little west of the line marking the mutual boundary between Bloomfield and Montclair, and will well repay a visit. These young men evince both skilled and cultured talent as well as refined and artistic taste, all of which are valuable and even necessary acquisitions to their chosen avocation. There are but few persons engaged in this department of industry in America. Doremus & Payne are better known to church builders all over the United States than they are to our own citizens. We are glad to hear that their business is growing and extending as their peculiar qualifications are realized. We should think they deserve the largest success. Montclair may well encourage and foster so pleasing and creditable an industry.

AN "OLD FOLKS' CONCERT" is to be given in the Congregational Church at Montclair, on Wednesday evening the 26th inst. The singers will appear in costume. An opportunity will thus be afforded to the old people of Caldwell, Montclair and Bloomfield, to revive the memories of their youth, while the younger citizens may see and hear a truthful representation of the people and the music of a past age.

For the Saturday Gazette.

SUMMER CORRESPONDENCE.

LAKE GEORGE.

HOW THE HOTEL BOARDERS AMUSE THEMSELVES IN SUMMER—GREASED PIG—GEASED POLE—SAKE RACE—LADIES' BOAT RACE.

So read the principal part of the programme of amusements one afternoon at the Lake House, one of the largest hotels at the head of the lake. As some of your readers may never have had the extreme of witnessing any of the above-mentioned many sports, a description may not amiss.

First, contest of catching the greased pig. Prize—the pig. This was the official announcement. The only condition imposed was that the porker should be caught by the tail, any other "hold" being invalid.

Of course, the usual continuation, a difficult handle at best, was lubricated fit to make an end die of envy.

As two men brought a covered box and set it down on the hotel lawn the excitement was at fever heat. Not among the boarders, to be sure, but there were men and boys present who would have swam a sea of grease for the sake of that pig. At the signal, off went piggy as if shot, squealing, and greasy enough to make him feel quite "in his element." But he soon became quite visible in the cloud of purifiers which followed his every movement like remorseless fate. "In his brief, but not uneventful career" he was at first caught unfairly; but captured a second time according to regulations, amid vociferous squeals of indignation. We did not much envy the happy captor the task of getting such a tough and active porker into condition for market.

Preparations were next made for the sack-race by clearing a course about 150 feet long, and stretching a rope across it midway about two feet from the ground.

Everybody, men, women, children, and babies, made an indiscriminate rush for the hotel balcony and every other available point of view. After the inevitable period of waiting the contestants appeared.

Imagine, if possible, six enormous animated sacks, standing on end, with a darkey's coal-black head and neck protruding from the mouth of each. Before the sacks were put on, each contestant's hands had been tightly tied behind him; he then stepped into the sack, and the mouth was drawn up around his neck and securely fastened

to these elaborate preparations any fraud was rendered impossible.

If, by any possibility, any of your readers imagine it easy to run thus begged, let him tie a sheet, or anything else sufficiently long, around his neck, clasp the hands behind, and then start off on a double-quick across the room. I would most decidedly advise the experimenter to carry a large feather pillow at the same time between his teeth.

Journalistic career at \$5 per week, presenting the city of his adoption over \$40,000 in cash within two years. Not only does he thus generously give these important sums, but duly he defends the city's rights in his widely read journal, and denounces the corruption which ceaselessly strives to creep into its administration.

THE GREAT BRIDGE.

Brooklyn is in a state of eminent disgust at the refusal of Mayor Havemeyer and Comptroller Green to pay on the part of New York, \$500,000 towards the construction of the great Bridge over the East River. The Mayor and Comptroller look upon the Bridge as an engineering masterpiece, and the construction management as a financial fraud.

In this I agree with them. The Bridge when completed will cost over ten million dollars, and will be insecure at its greatest height, unless guyed down. If so guyed, navigation will be seriously interfered with. If not so guyed, in a heavy northeaster, the wind would lift it up and it would sag down and drop into the river below. I am inclined to think that the solution of the problem of communication between these two great cities, or rather between these two sections of the same great city, will be found to be a tunnel.

For less than has been expended upon the piers alone of the bridge, two tunnels could have been constructed under the East river.

The tunnel best known is that under the "Thames," and the cost and difficulty of constructing it have caused a general belief that tunneling under rivers is impracticable. Of late years, however, the attention of engineers has been directed to the subject, and with the immensely improved machinery for boring, a great advance has taken place in sub-aquatic tunnels. The Chicago tunnel and the triple-tunnel from Liverpool to Birkenhead are the finest examples and prove conclusively the advantage of this system over bridges.

It is quite puzzling to the uninformed to conjecture how a man could possibly progress even six feet in such a predicament. To run, in the ordinary sense of the term, was, of course, impossible. The two knowing ones who kept right-side-up to the end went by a succession of short jumps with both feet together. The others, apparently, were not "posted," and tried to run, which was, of course, fatal.

Several of these ebony sons of Africa stood for a moment waiting, with their hands tied behind them, after the sack had been taken off. Their dark skins and fettered hands were suggestive. As I looked at them the scene suddenly shifted. In the twinkling of an eye my thoughts flew back to a time not so very far distant—I stood on the verandah of a Southern hotel. The sun shone as brightly as before, the waters which stretched away in the distance before me were calm and peaceful, but the aspect of the crowd of men upon whom I looked had changed. All around a common centre jostled a mass of eager auction-bidders; and in that centre stood six men, bound and on their dusky faces the look of despair.

GOVERNOR DIX.

The Governor was in the city last Friday on his way from Elmira to Seaford, his sea-side resort.

He spent several hours with the Comptroller discussing various official matters.

The old warrior looks pale and weary; at least ten years younger than when he assumed the gubernatorial chair, and appears to be "sound in wind and limb" for the races for the governorship this Fall, and the Presidency in 1876.

INEFFICIENT POLICE.

The police seem to be "getting it," as the boys say, from every quarter, and not without reason. To be sure, there are any number of efficient officers on the force, and there are many poor ones as well. To show how stupid they often set let me give an instance. A few nights ago a lady, whom you would know if I mentioned her, who occupies a bed-room in the back parlor of a high-basement house up town, was aroused from her slumber by a suspicious noise. She raised herself up in her bed and listened with beating heart. Soon she saw the window blinds slowly open. Although almost petrified with fear she managed to say in a loud and dramatic voice, "Who's there?" Immediately she heard something drop, a man, of course, who she could distinctly hear his footsteps receding down the yard. When she was satisfied that there was no one else in the room, she got out of bed, and going to the front window, shouted "Police" at the top of her lungs. The sound penetrated through the night air, and soon two policemen came running up the avenue. She told them what had occurred and advised them to go around to the back street and look for the burglar. But they would not listen to advice and insisted upon coming in to search the house. Of course they found nothing. The lady purchased a revolver the next day, which she thinks will be more of a protection than the police.

CONFIDENCE MEN.

While I am upon the subject of police and items in that line, let me relate a recent experience of a young gentleman of my acquaintance. He is a western man and looks a little "green," while, in fact, he is anything else. Walking on Broadway the other day a man ran up to him in the most deliberate and extended hand, saying, "Mr. Cook, I am happy to see you," but my name is not Cook." "Excuse me, my dear sir, but you must be somewhat near the Cooks of Watertown, such a wonderful family, I assure you." "I don't know anything about the Cooks, of Watertown," replied the young man; "my name is Reed, and my home is in Montreal, allow me to bid you good-day," and he passed on. A block or two further on another man rushed up to him saying, "Mr. Reed, I am delighted to see you. I see you don't recognize me, but I know you very well. I used to be a clerk in the post office at Montreal and have often given you my letters. It is particularly fortunate that I should meet you at this moment, for I have a check to get cashed and want some one to identify me at the bank." "Mr. Reed" friend said to the end, and then turning upon him said, "My name is not Reed, and I never was in Montreal in my life, although I told that to your pal a moment ago, and if you don't leave I'll have you both arrested." It is needless to say that the friends of Messrs. Cook and Reed immediately vanished.

ROGUES AND BOARDING SCHOOL.

The devices of rogues and swindlers are almost beyond the comprehension of honest men. There are vile fellows, here in New York, who go hold of the catalogues of boarding schools and send letters of various improper kinds to the young ladies whose names and addresses are given. Not only this, but dealers in obscene literature send their vile publications in this way. I am informed that this outrage is a constant source of annoyance to the students of Vassar College, and that the Trustees are making every effort to prevent the promiscuous distribution of catalogues on that account. Quite a number of young ladies' boarding schools have discontinued the publication of catalogues for this very reason.

LITERARY NOTES.

Mr. Oswald Ottendorfer, the editor and proprietor of the New York *Staats Zeitung*, the best German paper printed in this country, is a member of the Board of Aldermen and Supervisors. Holding this position gives him much power and influence, apart from that of his editorial and political influence.